Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Unity Point Childcare

Provider No.: 51929

Address: 2720 Stone Park Blvd, Sioux City, IA, 51104

County: Woodbury

Director's Name: Shannon Finch

On-Site Supervisor: Samantha Flores

Phone Number: 7122793579

E-Mail: Shannon.Finch@unitypoint.org

HHS Visit Date: 06/24/2026

Licensing Period: 07/01/2026 to 07/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/21/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 7:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 7:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 7:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 7:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 7:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	23	13	19		55
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit at UnityPoint Daycare Center on 06/24/26. I met with Shannon Finch, the center director. Ms. Finch holds a two-year degree in Early Childhood Education and has 12 years of experience working in childcare centers. She also maintains a National Administrator Certificate.

The program provides care for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. The center operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The program primarily serves children of UnityPoint Hospital staff, allowing parents the opportunity to visit their child during the day. A dedicated room for nursing mothers is available and is utilized frequently.

There are currently 45 children enrolled in the program, with 27 children present at the time of my visit.

I observed all areas of the center, including classrooms, activities, nutrition practices, health and safety procedures, playground, and administrative review.

The program is clean and well maintained. Each classroom contains an intentional and developmentally appropriate arrangement of furniture, allowing for smooth transitions between play areas and learning centers. Multiple visual aids are displayed to support children's engagement and learning. Toys and materials are in good condition and are cleaned daily. The center utilizes the Creative Curriculum, a research-based early childhood framework that emphasizes learning through exploration, hands-on activities, and play-based experiences. This curriculum guides staff in supporting children's social-emotional development, language and literacy skills, physical development, and cognitive growth. Teachers use observation and assessment to plan individualized learning opportunities for each child. Numerous examples of children's artwork were observed throughout the classrooms. I observed positive and developmentally appropriate interactions between staff and

children.

Good sanitary practices were observed throughout the center. Staff were seen wearing gloves while dispensing meals. The center follows CACFP nutrition guidelines, and menus were posted in an area clearly visible to parents. Although the center follows CACFP standards, they are not currently participating in the food program. The hospital prepares all meals for the program, and the center maintains a small kitchenette where meals are received and dispensed. The program provides breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as an afternoon snack.

The playground is a fully fenced area equipped with play structures that are in good repair. The center recently resurfaced the area with turf. The playground also provides adequate shade. Monthly playground inspections have been completed as required. Radon testing has also been conducted. The center is all-electric; therefore, a yearly furnace inspection is not required. The first aid kit is fully stocked and appropriate for treating minor injuries. The center does not provide transportation. All medication was observed to be stored properly. Monthly fire/tornado drill have been completed.

On the day of my visit, the children were engaged in water play. This activity supports multiple areas of development, including sensory exploration, fine-motor skills, and early math and science concepts such as volume, cause-and-effect, and problem-solving. Water play also fosters social-emotional development as children share materials, take turns, and work cooperatively. Staff incorporated PBIS strategies throughout this activity by clearly modeling expected behaviors, providing consistent positive reinforcement, and offering gentle reminders that guided children during interactions. Their use of descriptive praise and calm redirection supported children in following routines, managing emotions, and engaging safely with peers. The structured yet enjoyable activity created an environment where staff could actively teach, model, and reinforce the behaviors outlined in the center's PBIS framework.

Shannon indicates that the new turf on the playground was a goal that they met this year.

The goal continues to work on IQ4K certification.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center is located within the hospital and is primarily utilized by UnityPoint employees. Parents are able to stop in and see their child throughout the day as their schedules allow. A designated nursing room is also available for parents who need a private space for feeding.

The center is exploring opportunities for expansion due to the clear benefits it provides to working parents, including the ability to visit their child throughout the day. In addition, the center has received ongoing requests for enrollment, indicating a strong and growing demand for childcare services within the hospital community.

The center is very clean and well organized. Classrooms and common areas were free of clutter, with materials stored neatly and safely. High-touch surfaces appeared to be routinely sanitized, and staff reported following daily cleaning schedules for toys, tables, and equipment. Floors were well maintained, and restrooms were orderly and stocked with necessary supplies. The overall environment reflected consistent attention to hygiene and organization, supporting a safe and healthy setting for children.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.13(5) Centers shall ensure that food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with the recommendations of the CACFPs. Please ensure that you are dating food products that are opened and put into other storage containers.

109.12(4)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices for infants under one year of age: Infants shall always be placed on their backs for sleep. Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet. Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child shall be allowed to sleep in any item not designed for infant sleeping, including but not limited to an infant seat, car seat, swing, or bouncy seat. No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant. No co-sleeping shall be allowed. Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound. If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a

signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required and an expiration date.

Please move crib from behind the door or ensure that the door to the hallway is always locked.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management

I discussed with Shannon regarding her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.

Her staff has been trained in PBIS, an evidence-based framework that focuses on teaching and reinforcing positive behaviors. PBIS emphasizes clear expectations, consistent routines, and the use of positive guidance strategies to support children's social-emotional development and promote a calm, predictable learning environment. She reported that staff are aware of when they need a break and feel comfortable reaching out for support. Staff communicate their needs by speaking directly to one another, sending a group message through the work text system, or simply asking for assistance. Shannon provides support as needed and models appropriate, calm responses for her team. The center also utilizes a camera system to assist with monitoring staff interactions and ensuring supervision standards are maintained. I also spoke with additional staff members, who confirmed that when assistance is needed, they communicate this directly, and Shannon responds promptly and provides support.

Please request the on-site supervisor role for Samantha Flores in IPOWER.

A full license is recommended at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 06/24/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.